

Appl. No. 10/631,335
Response dated: May 22, 2006
Reply to Office action of March 22, 2006

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-22 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-22 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of copending Application No. 10/629,056. Claims 1-22 remain pending for consideration upon entry of the following remarks. No new matter has been added.

Double Patenting

The Examiner alleges that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1, 3 of the instant application and claim 14 of copending Application No. 10/629,056 are claiming same subject matters and are both very similar. Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is further stated that a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321(c) may be used to overcome these rejections. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

In response, Applicants respectfully submit herewith a terminal disclaimer in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and respectfully request withdrawal of the relevant rejections.

Conclusion

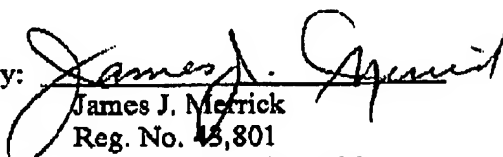
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

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In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicants' attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

CANTOR COLBURN LLP

By: 
James J. Merrick
Reg. No. 43,801
Confirmation No. 1396
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
PTO Customer No. 23413
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115

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